Shortage of foodgrains

2462. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
be pleased to state:

(a) whether a shortage of 22 million tonnes of Foodgrains has been predicted by 1990; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the projected shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Amendment to Essential Commodities Act

2463. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has recently suggested review of various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act for ensuring fair implementation of the legislations; and

(b) if so, what is the response of Government to the demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have raised the following points regarding Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981;

(i) Offences punishable under the Act should be made bailable;

(ii) Appellate jurisdiction should be given to judicial authority in case of confiscation of goods seized owing to the violation of the provisions of the Act or control orders framed thereunder, ordered by the Collector. At present, the aggrieved party could appeal to State Govt. concerned and the Act bars jurisdiction of the Courts in this regard; and

(iii) Provisions are being invoked for minor technical offences.

(b) The response of the Government in regard to the above suggestions is indicated below:

(i) Though offences have been made non-bailable under the Act, this does not altogether take away the discretion of the courts under section 437 of the Cr. P.C. to release the accused person on bail in appropriate cases. Hence, it was not considered necessary to make an amendment as suggested.

(ii) The E.C. Act, 1955 earlier provided for appeal to judicial authority in case of confiscation of goods. Under this procedure, there were considerable delays in taking decisions on disposal of confiscated goods at court cases would be prolonged, thus depriving the public at large the use of the essential commodities. Hence, it was considered that no modification in the existing provision is required.

(iii) Govt. have since issued suitable guidelines to State Govts. in regard to enforcement of the provisions of the E.C. (Spl. Provisions) Act, 1981.

Land Reforms for the benefit of the poor

2464. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the observations of Prof. P. C. Joshi of the Institute of Economic Growth that the country's post-Independence Land Reform Programme